

DFEH News Brief

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For Immediate Release

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STATE LAUNCHES *EQUAL RIGHTS 101* CAMPAIGN

Campaign aims to ensure state's youth know their workplace rights

ELK GROVE, CA -- The California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) today announced the official launch of its Equal Rights 101 campaign aimed at educating youth about their rights and responsibilities related to workplace discrimination and harassment. The DFEH is the nation's largest state civil rights agency whose mission is to protect Californians from hate violence, discrimination, and harassment in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

Under a grant from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and in partnership with the California Department of Education, the DFEH has launched its *Equal Rights 101* DVD and poster to all public high schools in California. The DVD features young actors discussing workplace sexual harassment, unlawful hiring inquiries, reasonable accommodation for disability and religious beliefs and pregnancy, and family leave. In addition to the DVD, an *Equal Rights 101* lesson plan, quizzes, frequently asked questions, and links to other state agencies with information about employment rights are available on the DFEH's Web site. (See www.dfeh.ca.gov/equalrights101/) The *Equal Rights 101* DVD also can be viewed on YouTube, where it has received nearly 3,500 hits and earned 4 1/2 out of 5 stars. (See <http://www.youtube.com/califdfeh>)

"It's our duty to educate and protect the next generation of workers - especially at a time when so many young people are going to work to help their families make ends meet," said DFEH Director Phyllis Cheng. "I am grateful to the EEOC for this grant and the Department of Education for helping us reach young workers."

"Education has never been more vital to the lives and future of our children," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell. "As educators, it is important that we help them become part of a strong and multifaceted workforce that will benefit all Californians."

Educators who would like a DFEH representative or volunteer attorney to make an *Equal Rights 101* presentation at their schools are invited to contact Mary Bonilla, DFEH District Administrator, at (661) 395-2796 or mary.bonilla@dfeh.ca.gov

For more information about the DFEH, Fair Employment and Housing Act, Unruh Civil Rights Act, or Ralph Civil Rights Act, please visit the DFEH's Web site at www.dfeh.ca.gov. ###